

# National avalanche bulletin no. 111

for Wednesday, 27 February 2008

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## *Slight increase in danger of dry avalanches in the west*

### Current conditions

Tuesday was sunny in the mountains. The midday temperature at 2000 m was about plus 2 degrees. The wind was light to moderate from the south to southwest.

On south facing slopes the snowpack is moist all the way through up to high altitudes; on east and west facing slopes the upper layers are moist. On north facing slopes up to altitudes of approximately 2000 m, the surface of the snowpack is moist. The snow line on north facing slopes is between 800 and 1200 m in many areas; in central Valais, western Bernese Oberland and the southern flank of the Swiss Alps it is 1400 to 1800 m. On south facing slopes the snow line is about 600 m higher than on north facing slopes. Hardly any snow is present in Sotto Ceneri.

### Short-term development

On Tuesday night, snow will begin to fall from the west. The snowfall will already ease again during the morning. The snowfall level will drop from approximately 1900 m to approximately 1400 m. The following amounts of snow are to be expected above approximately 2000 m: Vaud and Fribourg Alps, western Lower Valais and northern Valais 10 to 20 cm, remaining northern flank of the Alps, rest of Lower Valais, northern Grisons 5 to 15 cm. Hardly any snow will fall in the other regions. The midday temperature at 2000 m will be about minus 2 degrees in the north and plus 2 degrees in the south. The wind will be moderate and westerly, but changing direction to northwesterly at higher altitudes during the day.

Except on north facing slopes, the fresh snow will fall on an old snowpack that is moist up to high altitudes.

### Avalanche danger forecast for Wednesday

Northern flank of the Western Swiss Alps, western Lower Valais and northern Valais:

#### *Moderate avalanche danger (level 2)*

Locations prone to dry avalanches are to be found, in particular, adjacent to the ridge line and in gullies and bowls of all aspects above approximately 2200 m. Below approximately 2200 m, natural wet avalanches are possible, especially on east to south to west facing steep slopes.

Remaining areas of the Swiss Alps:

#### *Low avalanche danger (level 1)*

Isolated avalanche prone locations are to be found, in particular, in extremely steep, shady gullies and bowls.

Here, even a small avalanche can sweep people along and then give rise to falls.

The danger of wet snow avalanches will increase slightly in all regions during the day. On steep south facing slopes below approximately 2200 m in particular, small wet snow slides and avalanches are possible. Primarily in Valais and Grisons, some wet avalanches can reach full depth and medium size.

Irrespective of the time of day, full-depth wet snow slides are still to be expected. This danger is indicated by glide cracks in the snowpack. It is recommended to avoid dwelling in areas below such cracks. In isolated cases, exposed transportation routes can also be endangered by full-depth snow slides.

### Trend for Thursday and Friday

The weather on Thursday will be quite sunny. On Friday the weather will be changeable, except in the south, and a little snow will fall even at medium altitudes. The avalanche danger will not change significantly. Full-depth snow slides can still occur.

#### Additional information: 'Fax-on-demand' (CHF 1.49/min)

0900 59 2020 List of fax aids SLF  
 0900 59 2025 Snow Depths Map (in case of major change)  
 0900 59 2026 New Snow Map daily

Weather Information in collaboration with MeteoSwiss

0900 162 138 / 338 Alpine Weather Report MeteoSwiss phone/fax  
 (phone: CHF 1.20/min) (fax: CHF 2.--/min)

#### Regional avalanche bulletins (CHF 1.49/min)

0900 59 20 31 Central Switzerland  
 0900 59 20 32 Lower Valais / VD  
 0900 59 20 33 Upper Valais  
 0900 59 20 34 North and Central Grisons  
 0900 59 20 35 South Grisons  
 0900 59 20 36 Bernese Oberland  
 0900 59 20 37 Eastern Part of the Northern Slope of the Alps

Internet: <http://www.slf.ch>

WAP: [wap.slf.ch](http://wap.slf.ch)

Teletext: Page 782 (SF DRS)

Phone: 187 (Fr. 0.50/call and min)

#### Feedback information:

Email: [lwp@slf.ch](mailto:lwp@slf.ch)

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# Avalanche danger forecast

for Wednesday, 27. February 2008

Danger for wet snow avalanches  
below about 2200 m.

Danger level

1 LOW

2 MODERATE

3 considerable

4 high

5 very high

